

HEATH HOUSE,

ANDOVER,

March 16, 1905.

To

THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF ANDOVER.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present my report for the year 1904.

The Population at the last Census was 6500, and estimated at the present time to be 6,700; and your district covers an area of 8,385 acres.

Birth Rate.

During the year 190 Births were registered; this gives a Birth Rate 26·5 per 1,000, an increase of 3·0 on that of last year; the average for the previous 10 years being 23·5 per 1,000.

Death Rate.

The total number of Deaths registered in the district was 88. This includes 5 of non-residents registered as occurring in public institutions in the district (Union Workhouse and Andover Cottage Hospital), so that excluding these the correct number of Deaths was 83. This gives a Death Rate of 12·2 per 1,000, 2·6 below that of last year and 2·4 below the average of the previous 10 years. Fifteen of the above deaths were in persons under 1 year of age, whilst 34 were 65 and upwards. Of these 30 were above 70 years, and their average age at death was 79 years 9 months. The chief causes of death were:—

Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	9
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	4
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accident	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	2

Zymotic Death Rate.

Whooping Cough was the cause of 1 death, the Death Rate being 0·15 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality.

During the year 15 infants died under 1 year of age, a decrease of 3 from the previous year; this gives a mortality of 78·8 per 1,000 births registered.

The causes of death amongst Infants were as follows:—

Diarrhoea...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	4
Inanition	...	...	...	...	...	3
Suffocation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1

The ages at which they died were: 5 under six days old, 4 under four months, 3 under one month, 3 under 1 year. By this it will be seen that the struggle for existence is greatest during the early months of life, errors in diet being probably the contributing cause.

Only five cases were notified during the year.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Small Pox.

At the beginning of June a workman, who was travelling through the town, was found to be suffering from this disease. He had slept at a common lodging house at Rugby for 14 days previous to his coming to this town, since which time he stated that he had walked at night and slept by the roadside in the daytime. He was at once removed to the Isolation Hospital, whilst the room in which he was found was thoroughly disinfected, and those persons known to have been in contact with him were vaccinated. I communicated with the Medical Officer of Health for Mid-Warwickshire, in whose district Rugby is, and though he had been notified of a case on the morning he received my letter he could not trace any connection between the two cases or the origin of either. As the patient admitted making frequent calls at houses at Whitechurch, I thought it advisable to communicate with the Medical Officer of Health there so that he might be on the lookout for any similar case.

Whooping Cough	Was prevalent at Hatherden in April, and was the cause of 1 death.
Influenza.	A few cases of this Disease occurred, but were not of a severe type, 1 death being certified as being due to this form of illness.
Phthisis.	Two Deaths occurred from this Disease, 2 less than last year. This is a very small number, and speaks well for the immunity of the district from this malady.
Cancer	Is still on the decrease, only one Death having been registered.
Measles.	In September an extensive outbreak occurred at Hatherden and Wildhern, when nearly all the children of school age were attacked. It was fortunately of a mild type, contrasting favourably with the last epidemic, which was most severe and with a high mortality. To the mildness of the autumn must be attributed the absence of lung complications, which is so frequently a cause of death in this disease. One case also occurred at Charlton; as a matter of precaution I communicated with the Masters and Mistresses of the Elementary Schools in your District, asking them to at once inform me of any child who was absent from School owing to any illness with a rash.
Diphtheria.	There were 2 cases reported during the year; I was unable to trace its origin.
Schools.	Your Authority, acting on my recommendation, closed the Hatherden School owing to the prevalence of Measles. The Superintendents of the Church and Primitive Methodists Sunday Schools were also asked to discontinue their classes during the same time.
Isolation Hospital.	One case has been treated in this Institution.
Water Supply	Has been sufficient throughout the year, the water being pure and of good quality. Improved machinery has been added for rapid filling of Reservoir and prevention of overflow into the Sewers. The water main has also been extended in the Old Winchester Road.
Sewerage and Drainage.	The system is still working satisfactorily; the amount dealt with is about the same as last year. This corresponds roughly with the amount of water pumped at your Waterworks. Trouble was again experienced by the leakage of surface water into the Sewers, caused by the rise of springs in various parts. New Sewers were laid in London Street and Old Winton Road. It is proposed to lay a new Sewer in the High Street, from the Post Office to the Angel Inn; this section was not included in the original scheme. This Sewer is very much needed, as owners are waiting until this work is completed to re-construct the Drains of their houses, in some cases urgently required.
Septic Tank.	120,000 gallons of sludge were removed from the Septic Tank, being 3 years accumulation. In order to lessen the cost it is proposed in the future to remove it every 2 weeks, when 1600 gallons only will have to be dealt with.
Filter Beds.	The Filter Beds have subsided from the crumbling of the material, and it was necessary to add new cleansers to make good this subsidium. Only one house is now known to still discharge sewerage into the river, and the builder holds an order to divert the drains of this house into the new Sewer.
Urinal.	Your Authority have much improved the sanitary condition of the Town Hall by demolishing the old Urinal and replacing it with one replete with every modern sanitary appliance, a water closet and lavatory being added. The present site was chosen after careful consideration of other sites, being found to be the only one both central and convenient.
Baths.	The Baths were again opened to the public on Saturdays from June to the end of September.

House Accommodation.

A good deal of building is still in progress, though the eottage aecommodation is still somewhat limited, cheaper rented cottages being very much wanted. It is not so profitable to build eottages within the means of the poorer members of the eommunity as to erect houses of a higher rent. This tends somewhat to overerowding in the smaller and lower rented houses, and in one instance a large family have been unable to obtain a cottage, and have had to take shelter in the Workhouse.

Two eottages in Chantry Street were certified as unfit for human habitation ; notice was served to elose them within 14 days, and was acted upon.

Bye-Laws.

The confirmation of Bye-Laws relating to new streets and buildings was received from the Local Government Board.

Under these your Surveyor was appointed the officer to give a certificate that a new dwelling house, previous to oocupation, is fit for human habitation.

Town River.

This was cleaned out from the Town Bridge to the Tumbling Bay. The bed of the river shows a great improvement.

Inspection of Schools.

Aeting on a report received from the County Council, Smannell, Enham, and Charlton Schools were inspected with regard to their sanitary condition and state of repair, and your Inspector reported on them to the Managers.

Factory Act.

The Workshops and Laundries have been visited, especial attention being given to ventilation, light, heating, construction and condition of floors, limewashing and painting, lavatory aecommodation, and eubie eapacity of the workrooms.

Slaughter Houses.

Attention has been given to these at various times during the year, and improved drainage has been provided at two and the yard relaid in one.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

I have visited most of these, and am preparing a report on them, which I hope to present at an early date. An Inspector of the Local Government Board, engaged in preparing a report throughout England, visited several in your District.

Midwives Act.

This important Act comes into foree in April, 1905, and it will be necessary for your Authority to appoint a Committee to deal with the various portions of it.

Inspection of Meat.

Frequent inspection of meat and fish exposed for sale have been made.

Inspector's Report.

I attach a most carefully prepared report from your Inspector. It shows a great amount of work accomplished. I am pleased to be again able to acknowledge the great assistance he has afforded me during the year.

In conclusion, may I be allowed to eongratulate you on the decrease of the Death Rate, the increase of the number of Births, the almost entire absenee of Zymotie Disease, and the good health of the inhabitants of your town during the year.

I am, Gentlemen, your Obedient Servant,

ERNEST A. FARR, M.O.H.

TOWN HALL, ANDOVER,

16th March, 1905.

To

E. A. FARR, ESQ., MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, ANDOVER.

DEAR SIR,—

The following is a summary of the Inspector of Nuisance's work in the Borough of Andover during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1904.

Number of formal inspections of premises	...	...	...	174
Drains examined	...	...	...	134
Ditto relaid, amended, trapped or ventilated	...	...	...	97
Closets examined and renewed, flushed or repaired	...	...	...	85

Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	36
Tub closets abolished	...	...	...	...	...	14
Houses disinfected after illness therein	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ditto closed, as being unfit for occupation	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ditto cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ditto, overcrowding stopped	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	—
Ditto from smoke	...	...	...	...	...	—
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Slaughterhouses under inspection	...	...	...	...	...	5
Lodging-houses ditto	...	...	...	...	...	1
Public Baths ditto	...	...	...	...	...	1

Scavenging.

The weekly removal and disposal (by fire) of house refuse has been continuously performed throughout the year. Only ten Tub-closets are now cleansed by the Council's workmen, and nearly all these will be abolished upon receipt of sanction from the Local Government Board to a proposed loan for extension of sewerage. Their complete abolition is much to be desired, being far more costly to maintain and scarcely more sanitary than the old-fashioned privy.

Concurrently with improvement and extension of sewerage facilities the number of cesspools in the town is decreasing. During the year 75 have been emptied for occupiers, at nominal fees, by the Council's Scavenging Staff.

Sewerage.

The new system of sewerage continues to work very well, but some improvement in the means for efficient flushing is much wanted. Occasional down-draught in the sewers produces nuisance sometimes at the outfall, but the Council are about to take measures to remedy this. Important sewer extensions have been made during the year in London Road and Whynot Lane. Only one property is now known to drain directly into the river, and is about to be diverted. The portion of river flowing through the town has again been dredged of mud washed out of the old sewers, which are now used as storm-water carriers. Complaints of river pollution have ceased. Below the town the river bed has become bright and free from sewage fungus; green water-weed is rapidly taking its place.

Sewage Disposal.

After 3 years continuous working the Septic Tanks have been emptied of their sludge contents (undigested solids), having become nearly full of same. The operation is now performed fortnightly, and no offence arises from it.

The material composing the Bacteria Beds is decomposing and subsiding considerably. The subsidence has been made good with new clinker, but the liquid capacity of the beds has very greatly decreased. Complaint is occasionally received of odour of the gases of decomposition escaping from the Septic Tanks.

New Buildings.

A healthy rate of development of the town by erection of new buildings continues. During the year 48 plans have been laid before the Town Council for approval.

Public Urinal.

An old standing nuisance connected with the Public Urinal at the Town Hall has at last been boldly tackled and abated by the Town Council, who have substituted for it an enclosure with modern fittings and sufficient means of cleansing.

Bye-Laws.

A modified code of Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings, also a code of Bye-laws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation, have been adopted by the Council during the year.

Infectious Diseases and Isolation.

As far as I am aware, the Borough has continued remarkably free from dangerous infectious disease. Two or three mild local cases of diphtheritic disorder and one of small-pox, discovered on a person passing through the town and duly isolated and cured, being practically all I can record.

Water Supply.

During the year 76 new services have been laid on from the town mains.

Legal Proceedings.

To procure abatement of nuisances only 26 Statutory Notices have been issued, for enforcement of which no legal proceedings have been necessary.

I am, Sir, yours Obediently,

R. WALTER KNAPP,

Certificated Inspector of Nuisances.